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FOR: NATION GARRISON AND JFK PLOT TAKE 2 DAVID FERRIE

FROM: DAVID SNYDER, TIME STRINGER IN NEW ORLEANS

(ATLANTA WANTS RERUN)

BEN CATE ASKED ME TO SEND FULL PARTICULARS ON DAVID WILLIAM FERRIE.

MY FIRST CONTACT WITH FERRIE WAS A TELEPHONE CALL AT 5:30 P.M. FRIDAY, FEB. 17, FOLLOWING THE APPEARANCE OF THE STATES-ITEM'S INITIAL STORY ON THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION.

HE HAD READ THE STORY AND, HE SAID, WAS TIRED OF REMAINING SILENT ON THE INVESTIGATION. HE FELT THAT HE WAS BEING PERSECUTED BY THE DA'S OFFICE AND HE WAS AFRAID OF ARREST.

FERRIE'S VOICE WAS NASAL AND ALMOST INAUDIBLE. HE SAID HE WAS PHYSICALLY SICK. DURING OUR FIRST TELEPHONE CONVERSATION HIS BREATHING WAS UNSTEADY.

I ASKED FERRIE WHEN I COULD SEE HIM. HE TOLD ME TO MAKE IT SOON BECAUSE HE MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND ABOUT TALKING. I TOLD HIM I WOULD BE AT HIS HOUSE BY 6 P.M.

I TALKED TO HIM FOUR AND A HALF HOURS FRIDAY NIGHT. HE CALLED ME AT LEAST ONCE EVERY DAY AFTER THAT UNTIL HIS DEATH. HE WAS EXTREMELY SICK, HE SAID, WITH ENCEPHALITIS. HE WAS SCARED TO DEATH OF ARREST BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND HE WAS BITTERLY CONVINCED THAT THERE WAS NO JUSTICE FOR HIM IN THIS WORLD.

THE MAN INVESTIGATED ON TWO DIFFERENT OCCASIONS BY THE DA'S OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION MET ME AT THE DOWNSTAIRS ENTRANCE TO HIS APARTMENT AT 3330 LOUISIANA AVE. PKWY.

HIS STEPS WERE FEEBLE AS WE CLIMBED THE STAIRS TO THE SECOND FLOOR. HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE SLOWNESS, SAYING THAT HE WAS SUFFERING FROM ENCEPHALITIS, BUT ASSURED ME THAT IT WAS NOT CONTAGIOUS.

HE ALSO APOLOGIZED FOR THE CONDITION OF THE APARTMENT. HE SAID

.HE PLACE WAS BEING RENOVATED.

THE LIVING ROOM WAS HEAVY WITH THE SMELL OF STALE CIGARETTES. EVERY ASH TRAY WAS HEAPED WITH CIGARETTE BUTTS.

FURNITURE, GREASY FROM SWEAT AND DIRT, RESTED ON A LITTERED, THREAD-BARE CARPET. AN AMERICAN FLAG STOOD IN ONE CORNER. NEXT TO IT WAS A TYPEWRITER IN A CASE.

DR. NICHOLAS CHETTA, ORLEANS PARISH CORONER, SAID TESTS SHOWED THAT THE SUICIDE NOTE FOUND IN THE APARTMENT WAS TYPED ON THE TYPEWRITER.

IT IS MY THEORY THAT FERRIE HAD JUST ABOUT DECIDED ON SUICIDE AT THE TIME HE CALLED ME FRIDAY. HE MAY HAVE HAD THE NOTE WRITTEN. WHEN I TALKED TO HIM, ESPECIALLY ON THE PHONE, IT SEEMS TO ME IN RESTROPECT THAT FERRIE JUST WANTED TO CLEAR HIMSELF, THEN CASH IN.

BUT BY THE TIME WE HAD FINISHED OUR CONVERSATION, HE HAD PERKED UP A LITTLE. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO FILE A SUIT THAT WOULD ALLOW HIM TO SUBPOENA GARRISON AND EXPOSE THE HARASSMENT HE (FERRIE) WAS GOING THROUGH. I ENCOURAGED HIM BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD STORY IF HE DID FILE A SUIT.

BY THE TIME I LEFT HIS APARTMENT HE WAS SAYING THAT HE WOULD PREPARE A SUIT OVER THE WEEKEND TO FILE MONDAY.

HE CALLED SUNDAY TO SAY HE PLANNED TO GET TOGETHER WITH AN ATTORNEY ON THE SUIT. HE SAID HE WAS FEELING BETTER AND SOUNDED BETTER.

BY MONDAY HE WAS WORKING IN AN ATTORNEYS OFFICE, TRYING TO GET THE SUIT TOGETHER.

THE TARGET OF THE SUIT WAS VAGUE, BUT

ONE OF THOSE SUED WOULD APPARENTLY BE JACK MARTIN, A NUT AND A SELF STYLED PRIVATE DETECTIVE WHO, HE SAID, HAD SUPPLIED GARRISON A LIST OF NAMES, BOTH IN 1963 AND LAST YEAR TO CHECK OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ASSASSINATION. FERRIE'S NAME WAS ON BOTH LISTS.

BY THIS TIME FERRIE WAS READING EVERY SCRAP ON THE GARRISON PROBE AND TAKING ALMOST A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE INVESTIGATION.

IT IS WELL KNOWN IN NEW ORLEANS THAT THERE IS A RIFT BETWEEN THE FBI OFFICE AND THE DA'S OFFICE. FERRIE HAD BEEN DOWN TO THE FBI OFFICE MONDAY, HE SAID, TO TALK TO THE AGENTS. ONE

OF THE AGENTS TOLD HIM,"I KNOW WHERE YOU WERE THE DAY KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED. YOU WERE COOLING YOUR HEELS WITH ME IN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT." THIS IS MENTIONED IN AN EARLIER FILE.
FERRIE SAID THE FBI BOYS WERE CHUCKLING ABOUT THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION.
FERRIE ASKED ME IF I COULD FIND OUT EXACTLY WHEN OSWALD WAS IN NEW ORLEANS. HE SAID HE NEEDED THE INFORMATION FOR HIS SUIT. I LOOKED THE DATES UP IN A CONDENSATION OF THE WARREN REPORT AND GAVE IT TO HIM. HE SAID HE WAS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING THE SUIT TOGETHER, BUT IT WAS APPARENTLY OCCUPING MOST OF HIS DAY.
HE TALKED TO MY WIFE ON TUESDAY. HE HAD A NEW THEORY ON THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BULLETS THAT ENTERED KENNEDY'S BODY. HE WANTED TO TAKE ME TO A TOXOLOGY LAB TO SHOW ME WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WITH A CADAVER. HE ALSO COMPLAINED OF HEADACHES.
BY NOW HE HAD STOPPED ASKING ME IF I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE ARRESTED. HE HAD BECOME ALMOST LIKE A SPECTATOR AS FAR AS THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION WAS CONCERNED. HE OOZED GOOD-NATURED CONFIDENCE.
I TALKED TO HIM TUESDAY EVENING AND HE HAD BEEN WATCHING A TV NEWS SHOW WITH INTEREST. HE WAS IN A GOOD MOOD. WEDNESDAY HE WAS DEAD.
THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OVER THE SPACE OF ALMOST A WEEK LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS AT LOW EBB WHEN HE CALLED BUT HAD DECIDED TO LIVE AND FIGHT BACK AFTER ALL. FOR THIS REASON, NATURAL DEATH IMMEDIATELY MADE MORE SENSE THAN SUICIDE.
HE LEFT A LONG NOTE, ONLY TWO PARAGRAPHS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC. IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS PHILOSOPHICAL IN NATURE.
THE CENTER OF THINGS IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT WAS A COFFEE TABLE PLACED IN FRONT OF THE COUCH. IT HELD AN OVERLOADED ASHTRAY AND A CLUSTER OF BOTTLES CONTAINING PILLS AND LIQUID MEDICINE. THE DA'S OFFICE SAID 15 BOTTLES OF MEDICINE WERE FOUND IN THE APARTMENT. I WOULD SAY THERE WERE THAT MANY ON THE TABLE.
ON FRIDAY, AT LEAST, IT WAS THE ROOM OF A MAN WHO HAD GIVEN UP. FERRIE EITHER PROPPED HIMSELF AGAINST THE ARM OF THE SOFA OR RECLINED FULL LENGTH AGAINST TWO SOILED PILLOWS AS HE RELATED THE DETAILS OF TROUBLES THAT HAD REDUCED HIM FROM A "MAN OF MEANS" TO POVERTY.
IT IS A MATTER OF RECORD THAT FERRIE WAS ARRESTED IN 1961 ON A MORALS CHARGE IN JEFFERSON PARISH WITH COMMITTING A CRIME

AGAINST NATURE AND INDECENT BEHAVIOR WITH JUVENILES.
NEW ORLEANS POLICE REPORTED FERRIE HAD ATTEMPTED TO INTIMIDATE ONE WITNESS, A 16 YEAR OLD BOY, WHO TOLD OFFICERS THAT HE SIGNED A PAPER PROMISING NOT TO PREFER CHARGES AGAINST FERRIE.
OTHER YOUTHS TOLD POLICE FERRIE TOOK THEM ON AIRLINE FLIGHTS TO HOUSTON AND CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS.
ONE BOY TOLD OFFICERS HE HAD FLOWN TO CUBA WITH FERRIE AND ANOTHER REPORTED TO POLICE THAT FERRIE HAD ASKED HIM TO DRIVE A CUBAN CITIZEN TO MIAMI.
FERRIE WAS NOT CONVICTED. ALL OF THE CHARGES WERE NOL PROSSED.
BUT ABOUT THIS TIME FERRIE WAS BUMPED FROM THE PAYROLL OF EASTERN AIRLINES WHERE HE HAD BEEN A RESPECTED PILOT.
IN OUR CONVERSATION, FERRIE CONTENDED HE WAS FRAMED BY JEFFERSON PARISH AUTHORITIES AND, IN FACT, AUTHORITIES TRIED TO SHAKE HIM DOWN FOR $5,000 TO DROP THE MATTER.
FERRIE WAS BITTER AT THE WORLD. HE SAID THE COURTS OFFERED NO JUSTICE, THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFERED NO PROTECTION TO CITIZENS
FROM TIME TO TIME HE BROKE INTO AN ALMOST NON-STOP NARRATIVE OF HIS TROUBLES TO LASH OUT AT THE LAW, AT JUSTICE AND THE NEWS MEDIA.
HIS HEAD COVERED WITH A WIG THAT WAS A RUSTY SHADE OF RED, HIS SHOES OFF, AND A CIGARETTE OR CUP OF COFFEE CONSTANTLY IN HIS HAND, FERRIE TALKED ON AND ON.
ONCE HE QUESTIONED THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BULLETS THAT CRASHED INTO KENNEDY'S BODY.
HE DRAGGED BOOKS ON ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY FROM A BACK ROOM AND LAUNCHED INTO A MEDICAL DISSERTATION ON THE ASSASSINATION.
HE SEEMED TO KNOW THE HUMAN BODY LIKE HIS LIVING ROOM. AND YOU CAUGHT FLASHES OF BRILLIANCE AS HE EXPOUNDED ON HIS THEORIES.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SCIENCE THAT HE HAD BECOME A PART-TIME INVESTIGATOR. "FERRIE IS A PILOT," HE TOLD ME, "BUT IN K COMPLEX CASES INVOLVING SCIENCE SEVERAL ATTORNEYS HAVE FOUND IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE ME INVESTIGATE FOR THEM."
HE WORKED FOR TOP ATTORNEYS IN TOWN, SUCH AS G. WRAY GILL, DEFENSE LAWYER FOR MAFIA CHARACTER CARLOS MARCELLO.
WHAT EVER ELSE HE WAS, FERRIE WAS RESPECTED AS AN INVESTIGATOR AND A PILOT. HE WAS CONSIDERED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE AROUND TOWN S TOPS AS A FLYER AND AN INSTRUCTOR.

WUAT2/5.
FERRIE WOULD HAVE BEEN 49-YEARS-OLD IN MARCH.
THE REASON FOR THE TEXAS TRIP ON THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT,
SAID FFERRIE, WAS A SPUR OF THE MOMENT THING.
"ONE GUY REMEMBERED THERE WAS AN ICE SKATING RINK IN HOUSTON
SO WE DECIDED TO GO SKATING."
THIS VERSION IS DISPUTED BY ONE OF THE TWO PERSONS WHO WENT
WITH FERRIE. HE SAID THE TRIP WAS PLANNED FOR A WEEK AND NO
HUNTING EQUIPMENT WAS TAKEN WAS FERRIE'S CLAIM.
FERRIE'S MIND DWELLED ON ARREST. HE SAID SEVERAL TIMES HE WANTED
ME TO ARRANGE A LIE DETECTOR TEST FOR HIM IN CASE HE WAS HAULED
IN.
I ASKED FERRIE IF HE THOUGHT THE GARRISON INVESTIGATION WAS
A PHONY.
"WHY CERTAINLY," HE SAID. "HOW COULD IT BE ANYTHING ELSE."
AGAIN, HE SAID, "MY ASSESSMENT OF OSWALD IS SUCH THAT HE WOULD
BE INCAPABLE OF CONSPIRING BECAUSE HE WOULD BE INCAPABLE OF
ANY INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP." ESPECIALLY IN ANY THING AS
DELICATE AS A CONSPIRACY TO KILL. ONLY A NUT WOULD BE A CO-CONSPIRATOR
BECAUSE HE WAS SO ERRATIC."
OF THE INVESTIGATION, FERRIE SAID, "PSYCHOLOGICALLY, I THINK
ITS AN UTTER WASTE OF TIME."
I UNDERSTAND THAT TONIGHT TELEVISION CARRIED A STORY QUOTING
A DOCTOR WHO TREATED FERRIE AS SAYING THAT FERRIE HAD BEEN
EXTREMELY SICK THREE WEEKS BEFORE HE CALLED THE PAPER.
THE DOCTOR SAID FERRIE DECIDED TO CALL ME AT THE NEWSPAPER
BECAUSE HIS FRIENDS HAD STOPPED CALLING HIM. WHEN HE CALLED
TO FIND OUT WHY, THEY TOLD HIM THE DA HAD BEEN TALKING TO THEM.
THIS WAS APPARENTLY THE LAST STRAW.
TV ALSO QUOTES THE DOCTOR AS BEING TOLD BY FERRIE THAT HE WANTED
TO FILE $5 MILLION LAW SUIT AGAINST GARRISON.
FERRIE TOLD ME THE SUIT WOULD BE AGAINST JACK MARTIN, WHOM
HE SAID STARTED EVERYTHING, AND UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
FOR SOMETHING THEY HAD CARRIED . I AM VAGUE ON THIS POINT.
ONE MORE POINT, FERRIE WAS LISTED IN THE CITY DIRECTORY AS
A "PSYCHOLOGIST". REGARDS
DAVID SNYDER
912A....
RWUAT2 RERUN OF FEB 24 1967 CS/913A..